This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Dermatology				
Wounds	Caspase-8 (CASP8)	<p>A study in mice suggests that CASP8 could be targeted to stimulate wound healing. In mice with an epidermis-specific <i>Casp8</i> deletion, keratinocytes, a type of skin cell involved in wound healing, proliferated at much higher rates than those seen in wild-type controls. Macrophages and granulocytes, immune cells that cause the inflammatory response typically associated with wound healing, were more heavily recruited to the skin in the <i>Casp8</i>-deficient mice than they were in controls. Next steps include identifying proteins that regulate CASP8 activity and testing whether lowering CASP8 levels can restore wound healing in a wound healing-impaired mouse model of diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(7); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.278 Published online Feb. 19, 2009</p>	The University of California, San Diego Technology Transfer Office is determining whether to patent this work; unavailable for licensing	<p>Lee, P. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Feb. 8, 2009; doi:10.1038/nature07687</p> <p>Contact: Colin Jamora, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: cjamora@ucsd.edu</p>